

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

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R 120300Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5186

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 4006

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, MY, NZ

SUBJECT: SUBVERSION OF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN NEW ZEALAND

1. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS IN PAST FEW DAYS FRONT-PAGED COMMENTS BY MALAYSIAN HICOM TO NEW ZEALAND, JACK DE SILVA, TO EFFECT THAT MALAYSIAN STUDENTS IN NZ ARE BEING SUBVERTED BY COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA. REPORTS NOTE THERE ABOUT 2000 MALAYSIANS STUDYING IN NZ, OVER NINETY PERCENT ETHNIC CHINESE. ACCORDING REUTERS REPORT FROM WELLINGTON, DE SILVA SAID IT "QUITE POSSIBLE" SUBVERSIVE OPERATION BACKED BY UNNAMED FOREIGN POWER BUT CLAIMED THAT PRO-PEKING NZ COMMUNIST PARTY IS DEFINITELY INVOLVED. IN PARTICULAR, DE SILVA CITED RECENT CULTURAL CONCERTS SPONSORED BY CHINESE LANGUAGE CLUB OF OTAGO UNIV WHICH PROMINENTLY FEATURED MALAYSIAN STUDENTS; AT WELLINGTON CONCERT, CHARGED DE SILVA, PRC PUBLICATION "CHINA RECONSTRUCTS" AND NZ MAGAZINE "NEW THOUGHT", WHICH HE CLAIMED CONTAINED ANTI-MALAYSIAN AND ANTI-SINGAPORE MATERIAL, WERE DISTRIBUTED.

2. OFFICIAL REACTION HERE THUS FAR CONFINED TO MFA STATEMENT THAT DE SILVA'S REPORT IS BEING CONSIDERED AND THAT GOM "SERIOUSLY CONCERNED".

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EM ACCORDING NZ HICOM OFFICER, GNZ SOME TIME AGO WAS APPROACHED BY DE SILVA REGARDING ALLEGED SUBVERSION AND THAT GNZ PROMISED INVESTIGATE MATTER FURTHER. HICOM OFFICER REMARKED, HOWEVER, THAT IN NZ OPEN SOCIETY, IT IMPOSSIBLE INSULATE MALAYSIAN STUDENTS FROM RADICAL/ LEFTIST MOVEMENTS ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES AND THAT THERE LITTLE GNZ CAN DO TO STOP PROPAGANDIZING. NEVERTHELESS, HE SYMPATHIZED WITH MALAYSIAN COMPLAINT, ESPECIALLY AS GNZ DID NOT WANT TO BE CHARGED WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR INDOCTRINATION OF MALAYSIAN CHINESE STUDENTS.

4. COMMENT: GOM TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN VERY SENSITIVE ABOUT POLITICAL INFLUENCES AMONG ITS STUDENT BODIES ABROAD; IN THIS CASE, PROBLEM IS ALL THE MORE SENSITIVE DUE TO OVERWHELMING CHINESE COMPOSITION OF STUDENT BODY IN NZ. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY WELLINGTON COMMENTS AND ANY INFO AVAILABLE ON NZ END. (TEXTS OF NEWS ARTICLES BEING AIR POUCHED.)
LYDMAN

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